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The Peasant Apron : Extension Circular 4-01-2A

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E. C. 4-01-2-A

The Peasant Apron



Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics
University of Nebraska College of Agriculture, and the United States
Department of Agriculture cooperating, H. G. Gould, Associate Director,
Lincoln.

THE PEASANT APRON

Allegra Wilkens

Aprons are a real part of every girl's wardrobe. They are really needed in the kitchen, and they may be pretty as well as useful. Aprons should be made of cloth which will launder easily and well. Aprons wear better if the cloth is closely and evenly woven.

Selecting the pattern for the apron is the first big job. At the same time, it is important to think about the cloth you will use, because the cloth and the pattern must be suited to each other. Select a pattern that is simple, with straight seams and hems. A peasant apron would be a good selection. On the following pages you will find directions for making a peasant apron without buying a pattern.

Directions for cutting and making two kinds of apron bands and ties are given so you may choose the one you like better, or you may buy a pattern. Study the cutting diagrams on page 2 very carefully. Often two girls buy the material together because there is an advantage in cutting border bands and bow ties for two aprons from a 30-inch length of material.

Sewing Problems in Making the Peasant Apron

1. Straighten cloth and shrink if necessary.
2. Check measurements and pattern (if using one).
3. Cut on grain lines of material.
4. Use a plain seam in putting bottom band on the apron skirt.
5. Make a pocket.
6. Reinforce pocket.
7. Make narrow hems on sides of apron.
8. Make a wider "marked" hem on skirt, using a hem gauge.
9. Gather top of skirt.
10. Prepare apron belt band or bow ties.
11. Adjust skirt fullness.
12. Sew apron to waist band.

Materials for Peasant Apron

Plain-colored fabrics combined with print fabrics.
Plain-colored fabrics trimmed with colored bias tape.
Print fabrics trimmed with bias strips (or tape) of plain colors.
Gingham.
Flour sacks.
(Avoid organdy.)

Amount of Material Required

1/3 yard of print fabric for border and ties.
1/2 yard plain color for apron and waistband.
If apron is for very small girl, less material will be required.
If bow ties are to be made, more material is required. (See cutting diagram, pages 2 and 3.)

Design for Apron

Plan apron carefully so that the spaces between bands and the width of the bands are arranged so that they will be in artistic proportion to the size of the apron.

If you buy a pattern for your apron, be sure to test the pattern for size and make all necessary adjustments. If you decide to use the peasant apron directions suggested here, you will also want to check on such measurements as:

- a. Length of apron skirt.
- b. Amount of fullness in apron skirt.
- c. Size and position of pocket or pockets.
- d. Width and length of apron belt or bow ties.

Remember: ---More material is required when band and bow ties are used.

Do not attempt to use bias tape unless you are sure that you can do good work with it.

Cutting Diagrams for Peasant Apron

For Apron Skirt - 1/2 yard of plain fabric

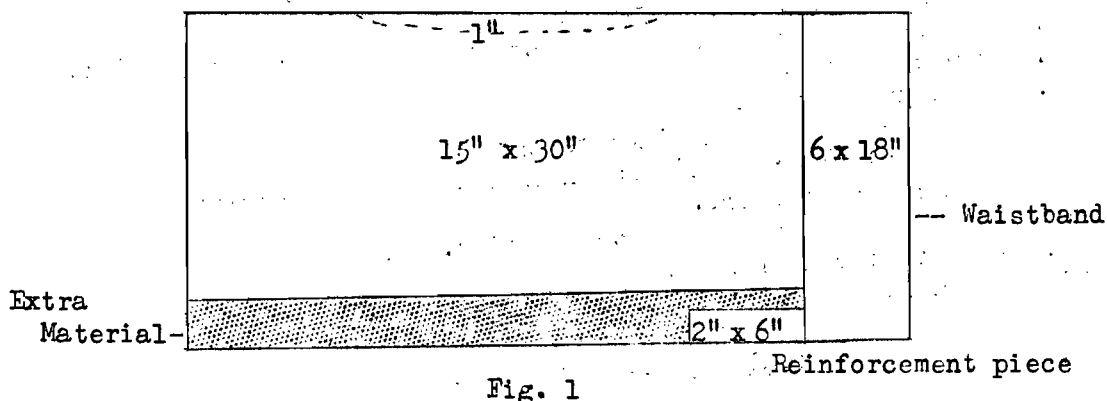


Fig. 1

For Tie Belt Style - 1/3 yard (12") Print fabric

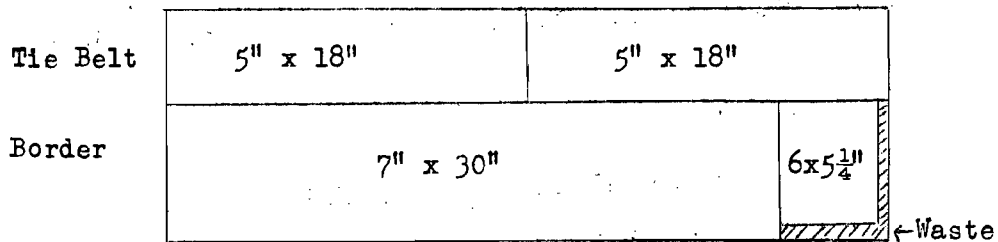


Fig. 2

For Waistband and Bow Tie Style of Apron

30" of fabric for border, waistband and bow ties for apron. All pieces are to be cut on the lengthwise of the material. It is a good plan for two girls to buy material together, in order to cut without waste.

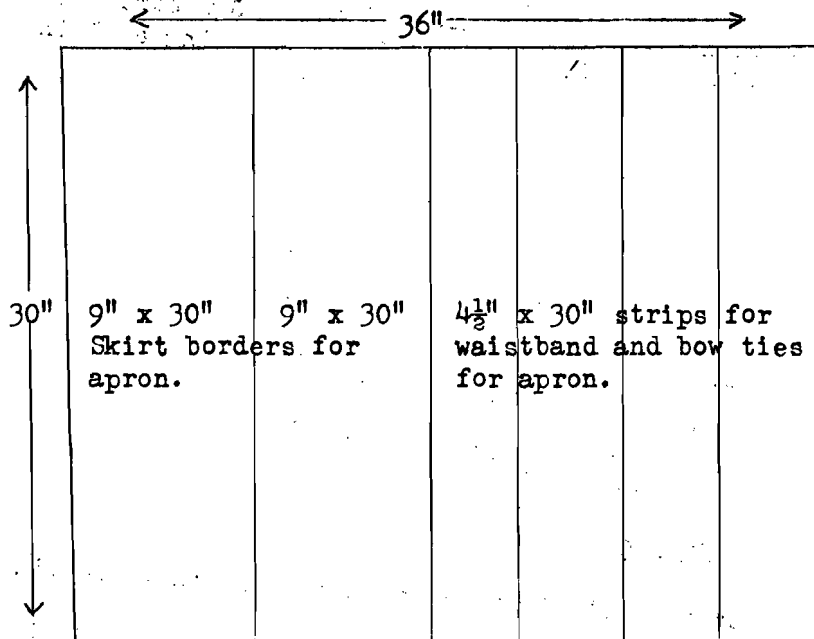


Fig. 3

This cutting diagram should be used only as a guide in cutting apron. The length of skirt and width of bands will depend on the design chosen.

Making the Apron Skirt

1. Pin the border strip to the bottom edge of the apron material. When pinning two or more thicknesses of material together, insert pins at right angles to the edge. (See Fig. 4.)

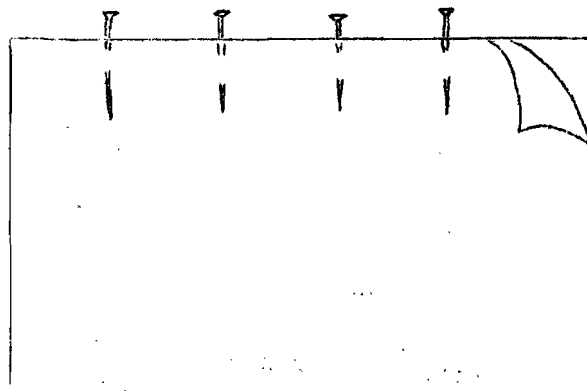
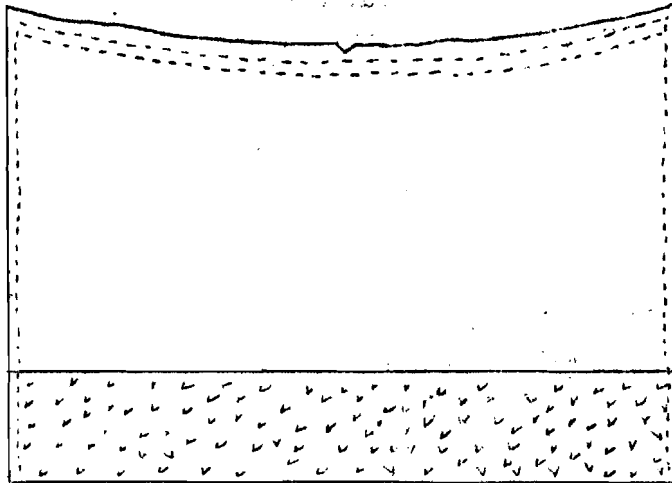


Fig. 4

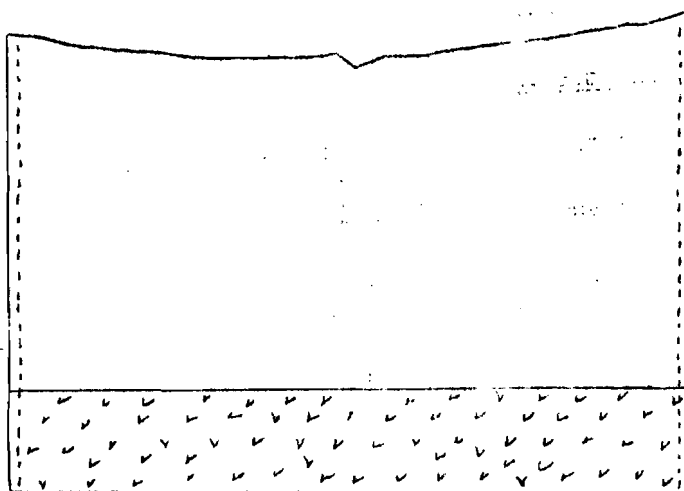
- 4-
2. Stitch border strip (print fabric) to the bottom edge of the apron material, using a 1/2-inch plain seam.
 3. Overcast the edges of the seams to prevent raveling. Edges may be overcast together and should be pressed toward the hem.



Sew border to apron,
using a plain seam.

Fig. 5

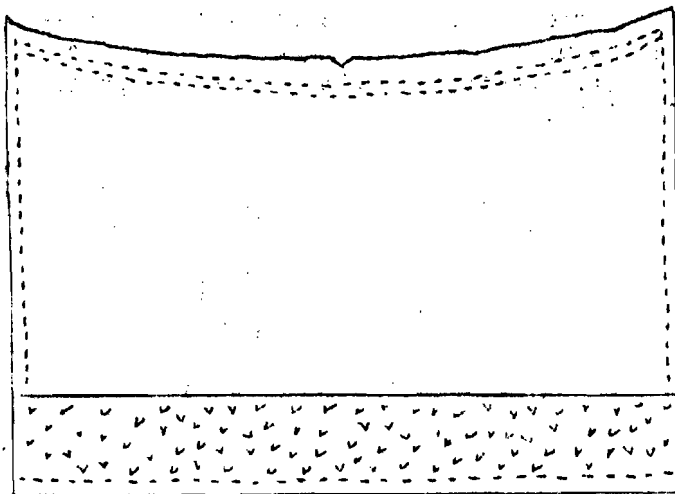
4. Press seam and all other constructions as they are finished.
5. Hem sides of apron using a 1/4-inch hem. (Fig. 6) The hems may be stitched by machine. You will want to do this job carefully. If you wish to hem the sides by hand, use the plain hemming stitch. (See page 9 Cir. 4012.)



Hem sides of
apron with
narrow hem.

Fig. 6

6. Hem bottom of apron using a wider hem (1½ to 2 inches.) Refer to Cir. 4-10-2 page 34 for method of marking and turning a plain hem.



Run two rows of fine gathering across waistline edge of apron.

Hem lower edge of apron. Machine stitch with matching thread.

Fig. 7

7. Fold apron skirt and mark center front with a small notch. (See Fig. 7.)
8. Run gathering thread across waistline edge of apron. It requires two rows of gathers; one row is used to gather the material to the desired size and the second row holds the gathering in position and thus helps to distribute the lines of fullness. You may put these gathering threads in by machine if you loosen the upper tension slightly. Ask your leader to show you how to do this.

Making the Apron Waistband with Belt Tie

1. Make strip for apron belt.
 - a. If your apron waistband and belt is cut in two or more pieces, join edges with plain seams and press seam open.
 - b. Test belt to see if the size is correct.
2. Fold waistband material to locate center front of band. Pull the hand or machine threads so that the apron's fullness will be drawn up to 18 or 20 inches, depending upon the requirements of your figure. (See Fig. 8.)

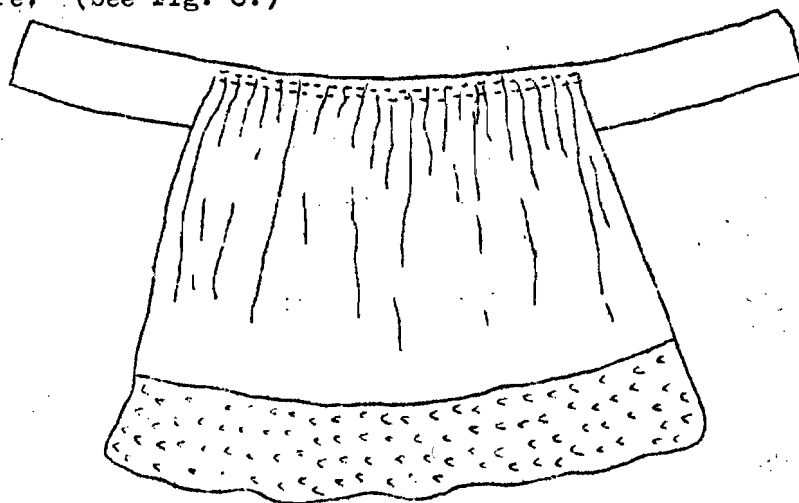


Fig. 8

3. Place right side of belt strip against the wrong side of the apron, matching center front of belt to center front of apron waistline. Pull the gathers to desired size, being careful that the gathered portion of the apron measures the same number of inches on each side of the center front. Baste and stitch gathered portion of apron to belt strip. (Fig. 9)

Folded edge
of belt

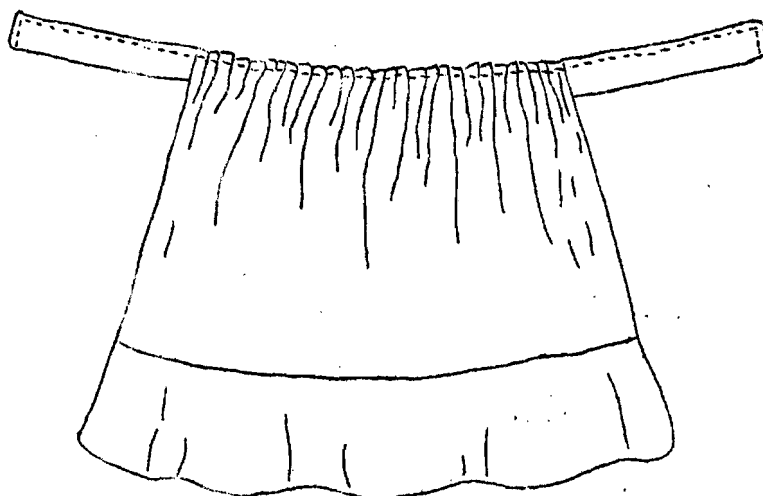


Fig. 9

4. Fold belt strip double so that belt can also be stitched from the wrong side. Stitch across ends of belt and continue stitching to sides of apron. (Fig. 9). Do not stitch belt double across portion where apron is attached to belt.
5. Clip corners of belt ends to prevent bunching of extra material. (See Fig. 10).

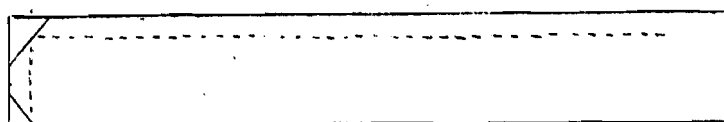


Fig. 10

6. Turn belt right side out. The band portion left loose across the waistline will enable you to turn the belt so that it will be right side out.

Crease and press belt along seam line so that the belt is smooth and has a nice edge on the right side of the apron.

Pin, baste, and machine-stitch remaining portion of belt across apron.

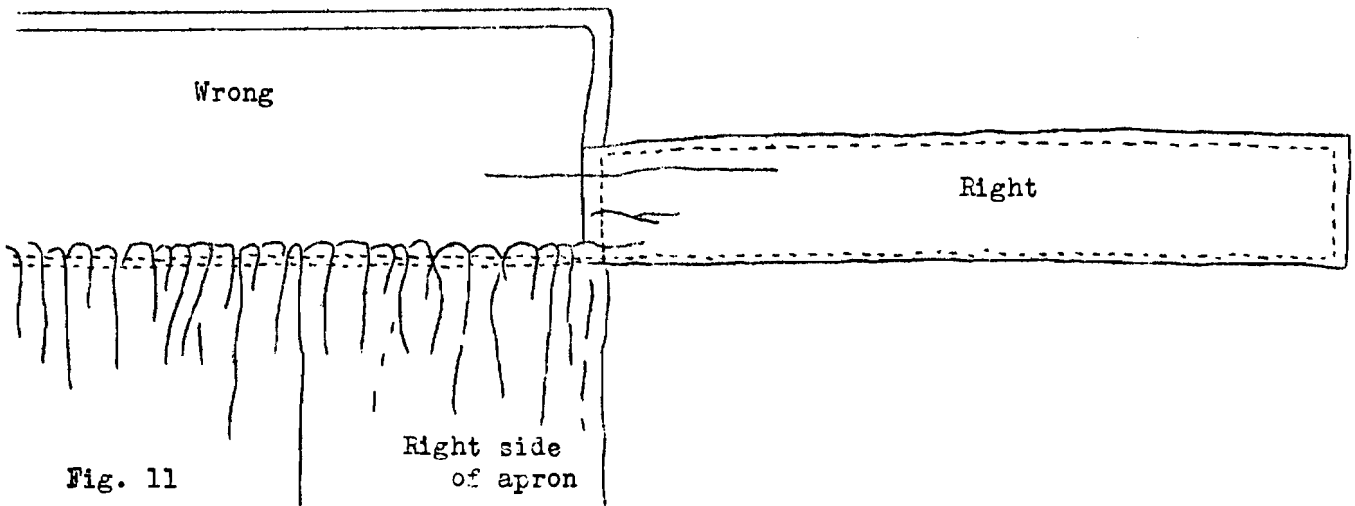
7. Tie and cut off all thread ends; remove basting threads, press well.

Making the Apron Waistband with Bow Ties

1. On the waistband piece, make a $\frac{3}{8}$ inch turn on all sides.
2. Place the right side of the band strip against the wrong side of the apron, matching the center front of the band to the center front of the apron waistline.

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3. Adjust and pin the gathers to the waistband.
 - a. Center fronts matching.
 - b. Place pins at right angles to seam. (See Figs. 5 & 12).
 - c. Sides of apron are placed exactly even with ends of waistband (the raw edges of which were turned back in Fig. 1).
4. Baste and remove pins.
5. Machine stitch, working the gathered side up.
6. Make narrow hems along the two long sides of ties and on one end of each tie. (The hem on the end of the tie may be wider than the side hems. See Fig. 11).



7. Pleat or gather unfinished ends of ties to measure 1-3/4 inches or the exact width that the waistband will be when finished.
8. Open seamline, fold on ends of band (Step 1, page 3). Pin, baste, and stitch the apron ties in position. (See Fig. 11).
9. Turn, pin, baste, and stitch the band across the apron.
10. Tie and cut off all thread ends.
11. Remove basting threads.
12. Press well.

